

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 H-02

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R 302030Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6582
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 5020

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, CI, AR
SUBJECT: CHILEAN NATIONAL MUNOZ SALAS SEEKS RESETTLEMENT OUTSIDE
ARGENTINA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4734

1. CHILEAN MUNOZ SALAS REMAINS IN UNHCR-SPONSORED HOTEL IN BUENOS AIRES AWAITING A VISA AFTER INTERVIEWS WITH FRENCH, AUSTRALIAN AND AUSTRIAN GOVTS. HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN DANGER OR PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SAFETY, ALTHOUGH HE IS DETERMINED TO LEAVE ARGENTINA FOLLOWING HIS AND 13 OTHER REGISTERED REFUGEES' 11-HOUR DETENTION AND MISTREATMENT BY ARGENTINE PROVINCIAL POLICE IN MENDOZA JULY 2.

2. ACCORDING TO MUNOZ SALAS' STATEMENTS TO IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES OF ONE EMBASSY, HE WORKED UNDISTURBED FOR THE SAN JUAN PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF MINES FROM 1973 UNTIL MARCH 26, 1976, TWO DAYS AFTER THE MILITARY TAKEOVER. SALAS SAID THAT WHEN HIS FAMILY WAS TORTURED BY NATIONAL POLICE ON MARCH 26, HE FLED TO THE UNHCR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR IN MENDOZA, WHERE HE WAS REGISTERED AS A MANDATED REFUGEE AND HOUSED IN A SAFE HAVEN.

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3. HE SAID THAT ON JULY 2, HE AND 13 OTHER REFUGEES WERE FORCIBLY TAKEN FROM THE SAFE HAVEN TO THE LOCAL POLICE STATION AND WERE BEATEN, TORTURED AND HUMILIATED BY ARGENTINE POLICE IN THE PRESENCE OF AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. ELEVEN HOURS LATER THEY WERE RELEASED AND RETURNED TO THE SAFE HAVEN. MUNOZ SALAS SAYS HE WAS RECOGNIZED AND TAUNTED FOR HIS UNION PAST, INFORMATION WHICH HE CLAIMS THE SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR MUST HAVE GIVEN THE POLICE. HE ALSO BLAMES UNHCR FOR NOT PROVIDING ADEQUATE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO HIS FAMILY (AN AMOUNT WELL ABOVE THE MINIMUM WAGE) AND FOR NOT REPRESENTING HIM VIGOROUSLY TO FOREIGN EMBASSIES WHERE HE IS SEEKING VISAS.

4. MUNOZ SALAS, WHO WAS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE CHILEAN MINE WORKERS FEDERATION, FREELY ADMITTED HE HAD BEEN AN ACTIVE, MILITANT MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY IN CHILE BEFORE PINOCHET, BUT STATED HE HAD NOT INVOLVED HIMSELF IN POLITICS OR UNION MATTERS IN ARGENTINA.
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